

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture
Minutes for September 17, 2013

In attendance: Marty Bullock, Pat Butch, Rieks Bruins, Robin Bruins, Ross Clayton, Gary DeFelice, Pat DePalma, Hugh McKittrick, Nyna McKittrick, Bill Potter, Randy Peck, Angelo Trapani, Anna Trapani, Meg Whitehouse, Bill Carney, Stuart Faunce, Bill Walker and Ed Wengryn.

The first meeting of the Board year was called to order by President Angelo Trapani at 7:43 PM. Following the invocation by Bill Potter, the minutes of the May meeting were corrected. Anna Trapani moved to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Rieks Bruins and passed.

Committee Reports

State Board of Agriculture

Hugh McKittrick reported that the State Ag Convention will be held February 4 through 6. Hugh is the chair and informed us that the line item for the convention has been cut by the governor. He suggested that a summertime fair at Monmouth Park might be a good alternative. The bill for open space was knocked down but funds are being sought. At issue is that they may be unconstitutional since not all would be dedicated to agriculture. Another issue is the definition and labeling of "local". Currently, it is "everything in NJ and within 30 miles of the border. Hugh finished by thanking the board for scholarships awarded to his son and informed us of his son's new job serving our county at the Snyder Farm.

Department of Agriculture

Current legislation on Enterprise Zones must be passed by the legislature. It is designed to permit approximately 150 farms to conduct ag activities which had been questioned in the past. The bill is A4034.

Cooperative Extension

Meg Whitehouse reported that the search committee has narrowed the candidate list to three. A decision should be made by December which promises to serve the county well.

FFA

Some of our FFA members were absent this evening because of Back to School Night. Bill Carney thanked the board for their support during the fair. The FFA chapters made \$2500. Plans are being made for 2014 including a bigger sign recognizing the farmers who donated. Stuart will be attending the National Convention as State Parliamentarian. He thanked the Board for our help which is fostering a 40% increase in FFA members. Dr. Fitzpatrick from Allentown HS and Al Murray from D of Ag will receive Honorary American Farmer degrees.

Farm Bureau

Ed Wengryn brought fact sheets and membership forms. The Annual meeting will be held Nov. 18 and 19. Policy development will meet Oct. 7, 2013. Contact Angelo with policy ideas. Ed informed us that Farm Bureau has a new website with special member log-in access to publications. They are offering cds to county boards. Current issues include: forest stewardship, gestation crates, beekeeping as right to farm, microbrewery, immigration, the farm bill/nutrition title, and a proposed game of chance featuring previously run horse races.

Farm Bureau Woman's Committee

Anna requested \$250 for the annual Harvest Drive. They plan to donate \$1000 to each county's food banks. Marty Bullock made the motion to give \$250 to the Women's committee. It was seconded by Ross Clayton and passed.

Monmouth Co. Fair

Anna thanked Randy Peck for the strawberry plugs which Gary DeFelice planted for us to give away at the fair. Our tent was very well received. For 2014, Anna requested money for wood so that the Parks System can make signs.

SDAC

Bill Potter reported that the decision regarding wine tasting at NJ wineries will be made in October.

Coop

Andy quit.

Farm Service Agency

Report was given by Angelo. It is available at www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov

Ag Assistance Programs

Conservation payments such as energy efficiency, manure management, forest management, irrigation and pest control will be made available to farms which have been eliminated from other programs.

Board of Managers

Pat Butch reviewed the survey and recorded comments on all questions. Please contact her with your thoughts soon so that she can complete the report before 9/30. A nursery specialist will be hired this spring. Money is being sought for a Mercer Co. agent, Aquaculture Specialist and Warren Co. Agent.

New Business

A committee for Young Farmers and Ranchers was formed at the Burlington Co. Tractor Pull last month. Anna Trapani nominated Stuart Fuanca as the Outstanding Young Farmer. The motion was seconded by Nyna McKittrick and passed. Other nominations for this position must be active Farm Bureau members 18 to 35 years old and can be made at our next meeting.

Farm Bureau Directors

Pat Butch nominated Gary DeFelice and Angelo Trapani. It was seconded by Anna Trapani and passed.

Delegates to the Farm Bureau Convention

Selected were: Pat Butch, Gary DeFelice, Randy Peck, Angelo Trapani and Jim Wikoff. Alternates are: Ross Clayton, Pat DePalma, Stuart Fuanca, Dave Holmes, and Anna Trapani.

NJ Ag Convention

Delegates chosen were: Angelo Trapani and Pat DePalma
Alternates will be Anna Trapani and Nyna McKittrick

The Open Space Pace will be held this Saturday with a parade at 10:00.

Nyna McKittrick requested \$1500 scholarship so that she can attend her second year of leadership development program. After discussing our current budget, Ross Clayton moved to pay half now and the other half latter. The motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Anna Trapani and seconded by Marty Bullock. After we adjourned a Special Meeting was called to order by Ed Wengryn. Bill Potter moved to closed the nominations after Angelo Trapani, President, Pat Butch, Vice President, Gary DeFelice, Treasurer and Robin Bruins, Secretary was nominated. Unanimous vote was made. Robin Bruins nominated Stuart Fuanca, Pat Butch nominated Kate Postem and Julie Miller and Angelo Trapani nominated Randy Peck. All were welcomed as executive board members before the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Bruins